

## **DISTRIBUTOR TUBE FOR A MEDICATION DOSE, PARTICULARLY IN TABLET FORM**

### **Abstract**

The invention relates to a distributor tube for a medication dose. This distributor tube is characterised in that it comprises devices for indicating the removal of a medication dose. These indication devices can comprise at least one transparent or translucent window and, according to another embodiment, can have a mark which co-operates with a notch on the lid, and an indication of the days of the week on the upper section of the tube. An embodiment according to the invention allows a patient to determine, on the basis of the day, the number of tablets taken since the start of his treatment.

### **Description**

The present invention relates essentially to a distributor tube for a medication dose, particularly in tablet form, comprising devices for indicating the removal of a medication dose.

It is known that a certain number of medications, such as aspirin and its substitutes for cardiovascular use, have to be taken as a single daily dose. It is therefore desirable to make available a pack for these medications which allows the patient to see whether he has already taken the medication dose.

Also, certain medications which are administered in effervescent form have to be stored, for obvious stability reasons, in tightly closing packs. Such a pack is a tube and comprises a lid which is adapted to the tube in such a way that it (or its skirt-like extension) guarantees the necessary imperviousness thanks to its non-positive engagement with the tube.

It is therefore the task of the present invention to solve the new technical problem which consists of creating a distributor tube for a medication dose that allows the removal of a medication dose to be discerned.

This new technical problem is satisfactorily solved for the first time in an industrially applicable manner by the present invention.

According to the invention a distributor tube for a medication dose, particularly in tablet form, comprises a tube and a lid, it being characterised that it comprises devices for indicating the removal of a medication dose.

An embodiment according to the invention has devices for indicating the removal of a medication dose comprising at least one transparent or translucent window along a surface line of the tube that has successive markings, the distance between which corresponding to the thickness of a medication dose, particularly a tablet, that is stored in the tube.

In a further advantageous embodiment, numbering between the successive markings indicates the number of remaining doses or doses taken. The numbering begins advantageously at the bottom of the tube and ends in the upper part of the tube, the number of doses remaining being indicated in this way.

In a further embodiment according to the invention the devices for indicating the removal of a medication dose comprise a mark, for example an arrow, on the upper face of the tube lid which co-operates with a notch located on the outer wall of the tube as an extension of the mark, and an indication of the days of the week on the upper part of the tube which also remains visible when the lid is closed.

Thus, in accordance with the invention, when removing tablets the patient can visually check the number of tablets present or remaining in the tube.

Also, the patient can see whether he has taken his medication on a specific day.

In addition and in order to permit the dispensing of effervescent tablets, which are particularly sensitive to moisture, (effervescent tablets being the preferred medication of the distributor tube according to the invention) it is provided that the lid engages in a non-positive manner with the tube in order to guarantee imperviousness.

The drawing shows a non-exclusive embodiment in accordance with the invention. This tube is intended in particular for administration of a medication dose in the form of effervescent tablets over a period of a week. It goes without saying that many variants of the distributor tube according to the invention are possible and are covered by the invention. The drawing shows a distributor tube for a medication dose in accordance with the invention with a lid in accordance with the invention.

The distributor tube for a medication dose, particularly in tablet form, in accordance with the invention, as shown in the drawing, comprises a tube **1** serving for administration of medications in tablet form, particularly effervescent tablets, and a lid **2**. This lid has an upper face, an inner skirt-like extension which engages non-positively with the tube to guarantee imperviousness, and an outer skirt-like extension (simple exterior knurling).

The distributor tube according to the invention is characterised in that it contains indication devices (**6**; **3**, **4**, **5**) for removal of a medication dose.

The devices for indicating removal of a medication dose comprise, along a surface line of the tube, at least one transparent or translucent window **6** which has successive markings (shown here as horizontal lines), the distance between them corresponding to the thickness of a medication dose, particularly a tablet, that is stored in the tube. Preferably, numbering between the markings (clearly visible in the drawing) shows the remaining or administered number of doses. The numbering preferably begins at the bottom of the tube and ends in the upper part of the tube, the number of doses remaining being indicated in this way, this being clearly discernible from the drawing on the basis of numbering from 1 to 7 from the bottom of the tube to the upper part of the tube.

The devices for indicating removal of a medication dose of another advantageous embodiment of the invention comprise a mark **3**, preferably an arrow, on the upper face of the tube lid **2** which co-operates with a notch **4** located on the outer edge of the tube lid **2** as an extension of the mark **3**, and an indication **5** of the days of the week in the upper part of the tube which, as shown in the drawing, also remains visible when the lid is closed.

The tube shown in the drawing contains 7 tablets and therefore 7 markings. It goes without saying that the invention is not restricted to tubes for only 7 tablets but can also be used for tubes containing more than or fewer than 7 tablets, generally 10 for example.

Use of the distributor tube according to the invention is simple. When the patient has taken his daily tablet, he aligns the arrow (and the notch) with the following day on closing the tube, i.e. with the day on which he has to take his next tablet, as experience has shown that on administering one tablet per day it frequently happens that due to repeated administration the patient no longer remembers whether he has already taken the daily tablet on the day in question or on the previous day. Taking small daily doses of medication is only effective, however, if the dosing instructions are actually followed. In addition, with the aid of the distributor tube the patient can check how many tablets he has taken since the start of the treatment. The distributor tube according to the invention is also eminently suitable for cases where the periodicity of drug administration extends over several days, a dosing schedule different from the days [shown on the tube] being achieved.

### Claims

1. Distributor tube for a medication dose, particularly in tablet form, comprising a tube and a lid, **characterised in that** it comprises devices for indicating (6; 3, 4, 5) the removal of a medication dose.
2. Distributor tube according to claim 1, characterised in that the devices for indicating the removal of a medication dose comprise along a surface line of the tube (1) at least one transparent or translucent window (6) having successive markings, the distance between which correspond to the thickness of a medication dose, particularly a tablet, that is stored in the tube.
3. Distributor tube according to claim 2, characterised in that numbering between successive markings indicates the number of the doses remaining or doses taken.

4. Distributor tube according to claim 3, characterised in that the numbering starts at the bottom of the tube and ends in the upper part of the tube, the number of doses remaining being indicated in this way.

5. Distributor tube according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the indication devices comprise a mark (3), preferably an arrow, on the surface of the lid (2) of the tube (1) which co-operates with a notch (4) provided on the outer wall of the lid (2) as an extension of the mark (3), and an indication of the days of the week (5) in the upper part of the tube (1) which remains visible when the lid is closed.

6. Distributor tube according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the lid engages in a non-positive manner with the tube such that imperviousness is guaranteed, in order to guarantee the storage of moisture-sensitive tablets, particularly effervescent tablets.